

Approved

May 20, 2020 Advisory Committee meeting (via Zoom videoconference)

Jennifer Fallon, Patti Quigley, John Lanza, Lina Musayev, Ralph Tortorella, Betsy Roberti, Rusty Kellogg, Deed McCollum, Bill Maynard, Paul Merry, Todd Cook, Neal Goins, Mary Scanlon, Julie Bryan, Mary Gard

Todd Cook opens the meeting and invites Citizens' Speak; no one comes forward for citizens' speak

Presentation from Board of Selectmen regarding changes to the budget since March, 2020.

Certain projects are being delayed, including the Town Hall Annex design and the Grove Street Project. Funds borrowed for Grove Street will be allocated to the Great Plain avenue project.

CPC agreed to allocate an additional \$200,000 to the Lee Softball Field project, meaning that no borrowing would have to occur to fund that project.

All departments reduced their cash capital by 25% in response to a request from the BOS.

Total reduction to overall cash capital is just over \$2.3 million.

Question from Advisory: Can you explain what the local receipts number represents?

- They include fees, interest, mail tax and the like.

Question from Advisory: What does BAN stand for?

- Bond Anticipation Note, which is a short term lending vehicle that allows the Town to reduce its yearly debt cost for this year.

Question from Advisory: Are there concerns that with a delay in voting on so many articles at ATM that we will be overloading the STM in the fall?

- We need to resolve ATM, so cannot worry too much about the length of a fall STM.
- ATM will only include necessary financial warrant articles, and will include a large consent agenda
- ATM will also include pretaped presentations that TMMs may be able to watch ahead of time

Question from Advisory: Are there any issues with the budget reductions we should be aware of?

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- Decisions are being made based on maintaining the current level of services in the Town
- There is a revised Sources and Uses table that shows a 2.0% year over year increase to the overall budget

Question from Advisory: This balances the budget in light of the economic impact of the pandemic?

- Yes; the reductions are primarily in cash capital in order to balance the budget

Question from Advisory: Why is the income from motor vehicles down?

- It's a reduction in excise taxes from new vehicles because we are projecting a reduction in purchases of new cars.

Question from Advisory: What about additional operational costs because of the pandemic?

- We are getting FEMA reimbursement and the CARES Act funds will cover staffing costs, PPE costs and changes to facilities to maintain social distancing
- Federal Government is also contemplating whether CARES Act could be revenue replacement. If that is the case, then the Town will have additional funds.

Question from Advisory: The \$2.6 million from CARES; when and how will we get it?

- We have to submit materials by June 5 and the funds will be disbursed on a rolling basis, but we expect to get them within 30-60 days.

Question from Advisory: How has the school department's operating costs been affected?

- Schools have access to CARES and other federal funds and grants to offset some costs.

Question from Advisory: Do we know whether the schools have been operating at a lower cost?

- We think they have been operating at a lower cost with the students not attending school in person, but we don't have those exact numbers

Question from Advisory: Worst case scenario, what is Plan B if the funds aren't available?

- We need to see where the holes are and the amount of the deficit, and then we can make decisions about where we can decrease services. Hopefully we don't get there.

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Update on Union contracts:

Some contracts are settled, others are not yet settled. As of today, the police and firefighter CBAs are settled.

Question from Advisory: Is it reasonable to expect that if the Town pays for training of officers, that they owe us for some period of time?

- Usually the employees leave in year 3 or 4, but we then hire replacement officers with the same level of experience, so we aren't losing any real investment in training costs.

Discussion regarding revisions to motions that we previously voted on and which will need a revote.

DPW Presentation

Discussion regarding cash capital and prioritization of the Great Plain Avenue project over the Grove Street project.

Question from Advisory: Will this affect Article 20?

- Yes

Comment from Advisory: Concern raised that the CPC will be fully funding a project that was supposed to be only funded 1/3 by CPC.

BOH presentation regarding services needed because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Question from Advisory: Does Wellesley have a stockpile of PPEs?

- Yes, at the Health Dept, FD and PD
- They are distributed as needed through the PD and FD to higher risk populations and care facilities.

Question from Advisory: What happens to the information gathered through contact tracing?

- Board of Health collects the data and there is a database of epidemiology data collected and tracked nationally

Question from Advisory: How do we handle the increase in the budget?

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- BOH can use FY 20 unused funds
- Budget will be reviewed to see if it needs to be voted before ATM

Discussion of minutes from March 18.

Motion to approve minutes as amended by Julie Bryan; Mary Gard seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; minutes approved 13-0.

Liaison reports

Motion to adjourn seconded by Patti Quigley.

Roll call vote taken; motion to adjourn passed 13-0.